

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 3, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16 and 19 are amended. Claims 1, 2, 7, 14 and 15 are cancelled. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 12, 14-15 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Erker (U.S. Patent No. 4,320,819).

The Examiner has noted that claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claim 1, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Consequently, claim 3 has been rewritten in independent for including the subject matter of claims 1 and 2. Therefore, independent claim 3 is now in allowable condition. Claim 6 has been amended to depend from independent claim 3 and is therefore allowable also.

The Examiner has also noted that claim 8 is objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claim 7, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form all of the limitations of the base claim an any intervening claims. Consequently, claim 8 has been rewritten in independent form including the subject matter of claim 7. Therefore, claim 8 is now in allowable condition. Claim 12 has been amended to depend from independent claim 8 and is therefore allowable also.

Lastly, the Examiner further noted that claim 16 is objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claim 14, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 16 as has been rewritten in independent form including the subject matter of claims 14 and 15. Therefore, claim 16 is now in allowable condition. Claim 19 has been amended to depend from independent claim 16 and is therefore allowable also.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of pending claims 6, 12 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

AUTHORIZATION

No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicants hereby petition the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 5000-5138). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: September 1, 2006

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